

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1279

By Burks

A RESOLUTION recognizing Elmer "Shorty" Winningham on the celebration of his 103rd birthday.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in our deliberations to recognize those citizens of our State who are celebrating noteworthy occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Elmer Winningham is one such individual who, on May 25th of this year, celebrated his 103rd birthday, a milestone commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, affectionately known as "Shorty," Mr. Winningham is a highly respected member of the Cookeville community who has always worked to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, born in 1907, Shorty Winningham began working for the State at the tender age of thirteen, walking more than a mile to bring water to the men who were working on the roads in Overton County and receiving only a dollar a day for his efforts; and

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty, Mr. Winningham moved to Detroit, Michigan, and worked with acumen and alacrity for the Hudson Motor Car Company for three years before rendering sterling service for ten years at the Dodge Chrysler Plant, where he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike due to the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, possessing an entrepreneurial spirit, Shorty Winningham was the owner and operator of both an antique business and the Scarecrow Inn, an area restaurant that was a favorite of families across the Upper Cumberland region; and

WHEREAS, strongly devoted to his family, Mr. Winningham always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Shorty Winningham enjoyed the loving bonds of holy matrimony for seventy-one years with his beloved wife, Geneva, before she went on to her great reward in 2005 at the age of ninety-one; and

WHEREAS, their blessed union produced four beautiful daughters, Wanda Fitzpatrick of Cookeville, Suzanne Worsham of Clifton, Virginia, the late Shelby Elaine Winningham, and the late Dianne Hesske; and

WHEREAS, known for his sage advice and valuable insights, Mr. Winningham recommends his fellow citizens follow his recipe for a long and fulfilling life, stating, "I never drank, I never smoked, and I didn't carouse around. I just tried to live right."; and

WHEREAS, as he enjoys his eleventh decade, Shorty Winningham possesses a vitality and a zest for life that is extraordinary for a person of any age, enjoying living alone, bushhogging his ten acre property himself, and, up until this last year, planting an annual garden; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Winningham remains a wellspring of optimism and enthusiasm; as he arises each morning, he confidentially proclaims, "It's a good day, and tomorrow will be a better one!"; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Elmer "Shorty" Winningham on the celebration of his 103rd birthday, offering our best wishes for his continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.